THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The programme of 10000 MWe by the year 2000 A. D., through indigenous pressurised heavy water reactor units of 235 MWe and 500 MWe size is being implemented. Any possible import of nuclear power units would only be in addition to the indigenous programme. Discussions are continuing between India and the Soviet Union on cooperation in setting up a nuclear power station in India with Soviet VVER type units of 1000 MWe capacity.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Generation of electricity from the nuclear fission process is safe, reliable and emonomic and Indian scientists and engineers and, Indian industry have achieved a high level of competence in this field.

(d) The cost per unit of energy produced at nuclear stations is com parable with the cost per unit of energv produced at thermal power stations which are commissioned at approximately the same time. The electricity generation cost in nuclear power stations ranges from about 37 paise per kwhr to 45 paise per kwhr whereas, for thermal power stations, the generation cost ranges from about 37 paise per kwhr to 62 paise Per kwhr.

Fast Breeder Reactor Technology is the next stage in nuclear power generation. According a prototype fast breeder reactor unit of 500 MWe size is currently under design at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, which is expected to be commissioned by the turn of the century.

Withdrawal of Employees Representatives from the J. CM.

1034. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: SHRl R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees' leaders including that of All India Railwaymen Federation have decided to withdraw from the Joint Consultative Machinery consti tuted for redressing grievances of the Central Government employees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have decided to withdraw from the JCM in protest against the unhelpful attitude of the official side on all issues;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Official side has also rejected the arbitration awards in violation of th* JCM scheme;

(d) if so, what are the detail* thereof; and

(e the manner in which Gove'rn-ment propose to strengthen the JCM due to these withdrawals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME ! AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 12 Associations/Federations including All-India Railway-men's Federation participating in the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery, have intimated their withdrawal from the National Council of the JCM.

(b) In their letter to the Chairman the representatives of the above Association? have stated that the attitude of Official Side has generally been negative and unhelpful.

(c) No, please.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government is anxious to settle the issue with the Staff Side. The Chairman of the National Council is looking into the matter.